



**National
Transportation
Safety Board**

VTs and Waterway Precautionary Areas

Captain Michael Karr

VTS

- VTS controllers
 - Provide mariners with information
 - Monitor vessels
 - Provide navigation assistance
 - Are authorized to direct the movement of a vessel

VTS Houston-Galveston

- Operators of certain vessels are required to check in with a VTS controller

VTS Houston-Galveston
Traffic Center



Response Following Collision

- Coordination — VTS watch supervisor and Coast Guard Sector Houston-Galveston situation controller

Containers on
Foredeck of the
Elka Apollon



Response Following Collision

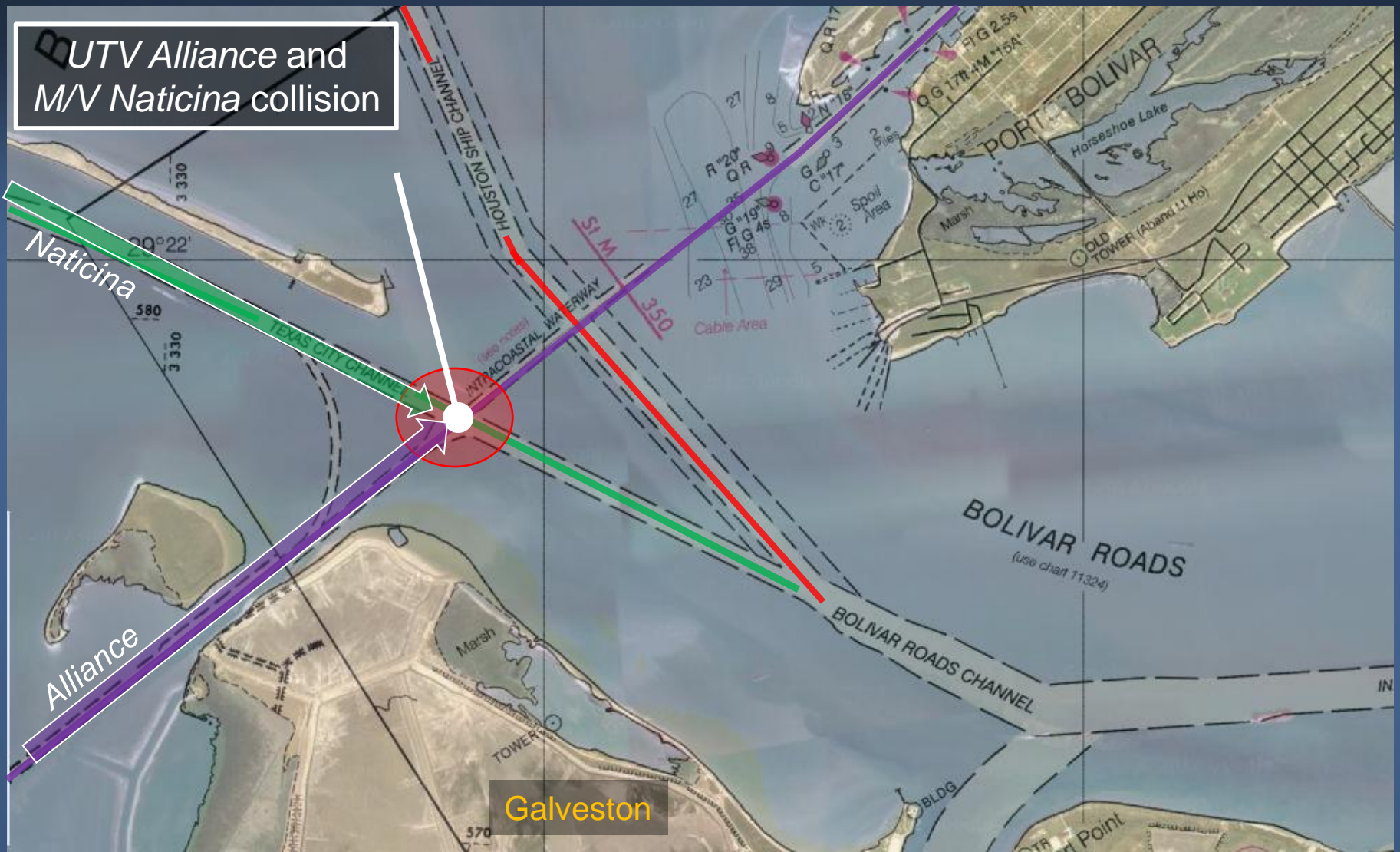
- Response — Coast Guard Sector Houston-Galveston assessed reported information and dispatched Coast Guard personnel to conduct on-scene assessments including environmental impacts

Precautionary Areas

- CG recognized that the Houston Ship Channel presented particular challenges
- Designated 14 precautionary areas
- Within a precautionary area “vessels must navigate with particular caution”



UTV Alliance and
M/V Naticina collision



Traffic Management

- Postaccident, VTS managed traffic
 - Action enhanced safety
- VTS lacks viable means to act earlier
- Recent accidents demonstrate a need to sufficiently separate vessels
- VTS could mitigate traffic congestion
 - Enhance safety

Nautical Charts

- Precautionary Areas
 - Houston-Galveston inland precautionary areas are not marked on nautical charts
 - Areas are marked on other U.S. charts
- Mariners may be unaware

Bayport Channel Precautionary Area





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